

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the cancellation of claims 1-10 and the amendments to claims 11, 13 and 14 as set forth herein to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for purposes of appeal. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment. Applicants believe the present amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search by the Examiner.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the subject application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (USP 6,777,045), and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. and Gupta et al. (USP 6,020,035).

Applicants have canceled claims 1-10. Applicants respectfully request that claim 13 be amended to include the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claim 10 since the Examiner has indicated that claim 13, as amended, would be allowable. Claims 11 and 12 are dependent upon allowable claim 13, as amended.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 103(a) have been overcome and it is respectfully requested that the pending claims be passed to issuance in view of the amendments and remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants express appreciation for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 18-24 are allowed and that claims 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request that claim 13 be amended to include the limitations of the base

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claim 1 and intervening claim 10, and that claim 14 be amended to include the limitations of the base claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 are dependent upon claim 13, as amended.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-24 are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. A fee of \$200 for one extra independent claim is due by virtue of this amendment. If the PTO determines that other fees are required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456.

Respectfully Submitted,

For: Cooney et al.,

By:  05/22/2006
Anthony J. Canale
Registration No. 51,526
Agent for Applicants
Phone: (802) 769-8782
Fax: (802) 769-8938
Email: acanale@us.ibm.com

IBM Corporation
Intellectual Property Law - Zip 972E
1000 River Street
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

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